

Application Serial No. 09/884,366

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 23, 2004 and the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated May 15, 2005.

The original claims filed June 19, 2001 contained two claims numbered "claim 1". The claim listing above rennumbers the second occurrence of "claim 1" to "claim 2", and subsequent claims sequentially there from. The claim listing of this Amendment replaces all subsequent claim listings.

The Office Action dated November 23, 2004 rejected both originally filed "claim 1" under 35 USC §102 and indicated claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, the subject matter of original claim 2 (now claim 3) is added to original claim 1 (now claim 2). Current claim 2 is therefore an independent form of original claim 2 and is believed allowable for the reasons indicated in the Office Action. Claims 4-10, 22 and 23 are dependent on and further limit claim 2. Thus, claims 4-10, 22 and 23 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 2.

The Office Action appears to have overlooked examination of original claims 5-27 (now claims 6-28). The Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 6-28 in any proceeding office action.

The claim amendments herein are not made for patentability reasons or to overcome the prior art. For example, current claim 2 merely places the subject matter of original claim 2 in independent form. Amendments to other claims are made to correct minor grammatical errors or to place dependent claims in independent form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.


No fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should such a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee. Should

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any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof
and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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